

MEETING OF
THE DELAWARE AGRICULTURAL LANDS PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

A meeting of the Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation was held at the Delaware Department of Agriculture, 2320 S. DuPont Hwy., Dover, Delaware, June 19, 2013, with the following members in attendance:

Robert F. Garey, Chairman
William Vanderwende, Vice Chairman
L. Allen Messick, Jr., Treasurer
Theodore P. Bobola, Jr.
Robert Emerson

Kevin Coyle representing Collin O'Mara, Secretary of DNREC
Ed Kee, Secretary of Agriculture
Lisa Embert representing Chip Flowers, Jr., State Treasurer
Peter Martin, Forestry Council Chairman

Absent: William H. "Chip" Narvel, Jr.

The following staff members were in attendance: Austin Short, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, and Chief of Planning, Howard Mesick, Milton Melendez, Scott Blaier, Cathy Mesick, and Robin West.

Others in attendance: William Denman, Esq.

Chairman Garey opened the meeting at 8:31 a.m.

I. Current Situation Report:

Robin West informed the Board that we have a total of 1,171 farms in preservation districts totaling 163,530 acres, with a total of 755 farms under agricultural easements totaling 111,025 acres at a cost of \$198,975,844. For PDR 18, there are a total of 107 farms, comprising 10,164 acres, with a value of \$59,747,386. For the Forestland Preservation Program there are 37 Forestland Preservation Areas comprising 2,711 acres. For the Forestland Preservation Area Easements, there are a total of 9 properties, comprising 872 acres, with a value of \$1,450,804. For the Young Farmers Program there are a total of 14 Young Farmers program loans which have settled, with an easement value of \$5,083,918. For the third Young Farmers round there are eight farms being considered comprising 841 acres with an estimated value of \$2,450,000.

II. Young Farmers Report

Austin Short informed the Board that there are eight loans for Round 3, and they should start to settle in September. Mr. Short anticipates that we will be deciding upon the funding of the next round of Young Farmer loans at our next meeting after the beginning of the new fiscal year when we know about State funding.

III. Monitoring Report:

Milton Melendez informed the Board that there would be no report this meeting as he will begin monitoring the Federal properties this coming week. There will be a monitoring report at the next meeting.

IV. District Final Approval:

1. Wheatley Farms, Inc. District, ID#S-12-11-267 After discussion, **Kevin Coyle moved to accept for final approval the Wheatley Farms, Inc. District, seconded by Ed Kee. Motion unanimously approved.** Discussion followed about approval of the District by the Town of Bridgeville, as Sussex County could not approve it as the property was within the Town limits, and about properties that were inside town limits in the preservation program.

V. Expansion Eligibility & Final Approval:

1. Cannon Preservation Expansion of the Kenneth W. Wilson-Clearbrook Farm District, ID#S-12-11-076E. After discussion, **Ed Kee moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Cannon Preservation Expansion of the Kenneth W. Wilson-Clearbrook Farm District, seconded by Kevin Coyle. Motion unanimously approved.**

VI. Secretary of Agriculture's Veto:

Secretary of Agriculture Ed Kee waived the right of veto for the above District and Expansion.

VII. Public Comments:

No public comments were received.

VIII. Minutes:

Chairman Garey asked if there were any comments or changes to the May 15, 2013 minutes. Hearing no changes, the Chairman asked for a motion to approve the minutes. **William Vanderwende moved to approve the May minutes, seconded by Kevin Coyle. Motion unanimously approved.**

IX. Financial Highlights:

Howard Mesick presented the Financial Statement for the month of May 31, 2013, informing the Foundation Board that we had, as of May 31, 2013, \$ 23,076.56 in the Foundation's interest bearing State of Delaware account. Interest income was \$5.64, Rollback Taxes \$998.37, and license plate monies received in May totaled \$910.00. Expenditures for the month of May totaled \$75,338.54. After discussion, **Lisa Embert moved to accept the May financial statement as presented, seconded by Ed Kee. Motion unanimously approved.**

X. Executive Session:

There was no need for an Executive Session.

XI. Other Business:

Scott Blaier informed the Board that the NAWCA grant submitted by Ducks Unlimited to assist with the purchase of easements was not selected in the first round of approvals; however, the application will be reconsidered in the second round of applications this summer.

Secretary Kee mentioned the almost \$6 million is currently proposed in the state's FY'14 budget for Aglands Preservation. Mr. Short stated that Delaware was allocated \$5.1 million for FRPP in the FY'13 Federal budget; however, unlike previous years, we will not be allowed to utilize any unused FRPP funds in the next year, instead they will revert to the Federal government.

Mr. Short then asked the Board to consider combining the July and August meetings as our July meeting is scheduled the day before the State Fair. The Chairman asked that this be considered a few days before the July 17th meeting date and the decision communicated to all Board members.

XII. Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Foundation the meeting adjourned at 8:59 a.m. The next meeting of the Foundation will be held on July 17, 2013 at the Delaware Department of Agriculture beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert F. Garey
Chairman